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STATE ARCHIVES

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JESSE WHITE • SECRETARY OF STATE AND STATE ARCHIVIST

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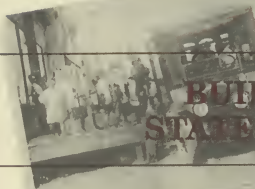
Margaret Cross Norton was a pioneer in the archivist profession, winning a national reputation in her 35 years as superintendent of the Illinois State Archives.

But perhaps Norton's crowning achievement was construction of the Archives Building in Springfield, which was built to her specifications. It is at the Margaret Cross Norton Building that you will find some 250 years of our state's history, including Illinois Constitutions, militia rolls and poll books.

Whether visiting the State Archives in person or requesting information online, by mail or by telephone, the Archives staff is here to help you open a window to Illinois' past.

Jesse White

Jesse White
Secretary of State & State Archivist



BUILDING THE STATE ARCHIVES

The Margaret Cross Norton Building was constructed from 1936 to 1938 as the official repository of state documents of permanent value. Prior to its construction, valuable military records were kept in the State Arsenal, located at the site of the present State Armory in Springfield. In February 1934, a 10-year-old boy set the Arsenal on fire, destroying many of the military documents and records.

Following the fire, Secretary of State Edward Hughes supported legislation to construct the State Archives Building. The limestone-faced building was designed to protect the state's valuable historic and semi-current records from the hazards of fire, humidity, heat, vermin, theft and exposure.



SHARING LOCAL RESOURCES

Working with the Local Records Commissions and local officials, the State Archives transfers valuable records to seven state universities through the Illinois Regional Archives Depository System (IRAD). Relocation of local records to regional archival facilities across the state makes the records more accessible to researchers and prevents loss or physical deterioration.

IRAD centers are located at Eastern Illinois University, Illinois State University, Northeastern Illinois University, Northern Illinois University, Southern

Illinois University, Western Illinois University and the University of Illinois at Springfield. Records stored at each depository reflect the history and traditions of that particular region.

PRESERVING ILLINOIS HISTORY

The State Archives provides reference services to more than 8 million requests annually. Each year, restoration technicians treat some 50,000 documents that have deteriorated from age, use or mistreatment. Through its efficient management, security and restoration procedures, the State Archives is preserving and immortalizing Illinois' past. This careful preservation gives the public access to thousands of government documents, including those pertaining to:

- Banking and state finance
- County histories
- Education
- Federal and state censuses
- Internal improvement and public works projects
- Labor issues
- Law enforcement and corrections
- Mental health and social service agencies
- Persons who served in the Indian Wars, Black Hawk War, Mexican War, Civil War and Spanish-American War
- Public land sales
- The Illinois and Michigan Canal
- The Illinois Territory
- Transportation
- Veterans and military affairs
- Vital statistics



DOCUMENTING 250 YEARS OF ILLINOIS HISTORY

When you step into the Illinois State Archives, the past is no longer behind you — it is before you. Government documents and historic photographs give historians, researchers, genealogists and others a true picture of life for more than two centuries.

An early 1920s photograph of children weaving baskets in a small schoolhouse illustrates the dress, decor and educational atmosphere of the period — a striking contrast to classrooms of today.

State Archives programs such as Illinois at War, 1941-1945 and Early Chicago bring local history into today's classroom. Through these educational programs the State Archives provides Illinois teachers with facsimiles of historic government documents and explanatory texts to help students understand and relate to Illinois as it was in the past.

Historical documents that provide insight into Illinois' past are found on computer databases, bookshelves, microfilm and in card catalogs throughout the Margaret Cross Norton Building. The Illinois State Archives uses modern conveniences to help take you back 250 years.

Illinois State Archives
Margaret Cross Norton Building
Springfield, IL 62756
217-782-4682 217-524-3930 (fax)

WWW.CYBERDRIVEILLINOIS.COM

Hours:

Weekdays 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Saturday 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

**The State Archives is closed
on all state holidays and holiday weekends.**

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